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a wireless interface module that supports two or more wireless protocols, wherein the wireless interface module comprises asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) interface, the ATM interface providing wireless ATM communications and other packet communications.--

--107. A switching center for a communications system that provides communications services to customers having wireless and other communications devices, comprising:

a first interface, the first interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a first protocol;

a second interface, the second interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a second protocol; and

a processor system coupled to the first and second interfaces, the processor system comprising a single operating system for communications received at the first and the second interfaces, wherein the processor system controls operation of the first and the second interfaces and generates control messages for sending by the first and the second interfaces.--

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-107 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 27, 46, 47, and 86 are amended and claims 105-107 are added. No new matter is introduced. Amendments to claims 1, 27, 46, 47, and 86 are supported in the specification at least in Figure 5 and the accompanying detailed description. New claims 105 and 106 are supported by originally filed dependent claim 17. New claim 107 is supported at least by Figure 5 and Figure 10. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and remarks that follows is respectfully requested.

A marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment is attached.

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 12, 14, 15, 18-53, and 67-85 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. statutory invention registration H1,921 to Fletcher et al. (hereafter Fletcher). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Fletcher teaches a call processor assembly 200 that controls the operations of the interfaces through various agents within the MSC to facilitate the adaptability between access technologies or standards. However, Fletcher discloses a call processor assembly 450 and NMS server 444 and a resource assembly 448 all coupled through a hub 422. The switching mechanism disclosed by Fletcher follows the typical industry standard

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of arranging discrete components in separate housings or boxes and coupling the separated components through wired connections, such as the hub 422. Thus, Fletcher teaches away from use of a single platform or housing for a switching mechanism.

In contrast to Fletcher, claim 1 recites a switching center for communication systems comprising a single platform having a first interface, a second interface, and a processor system. This architecture is shown clearly in Figure 5 of the application and is described in the accompanying detailed description. The architecture of a single housing or common housing is also discussed on page 2, lines 9-11. Thus, claim 1 recites a feature that is not disclosed or suggested by Fletcher, namely, a single platform or housing for the switching center. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Similarly, claims 27, 46 and 47, as amended, recite a single or common housing. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the feature of a single housing for the switching center is not disclosed nor suggested by Fletcher. Accordingly, claims 27, 46 and 47 are allowable.

Claims 2-7, 12, 14, 15, and 18-26 depend from claim 1; claims 28-45 depend from claim 27; and claims 48-85 depend from claim 47. For this reason and the additional features they recite these claims are also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 12, 14, 15, 18-53, and 67-85 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

On page 5, the Office Action rejects claims 8-11, 13, 14, 17, and 54-65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fletcher in view of U.S. patent 6,188,898 B1 to Phillips (hereafter Phillips). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 1 and 47 are amended to recite a single or common housing. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by Fletcher. This feature is also not disclosed or suggested by Phillips individually, and in combination with Fletcher. Accordingly, claims 1 and 47 are allowable. Claims 8-11, 13, 14 and 17 depend from claim 1 and claims 54-65 depend from claim 47. For this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 8-11, 13, 14, 17, and 54-65 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-11, 13, 14, 17, and 54-65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 6, the Office Action rejects claims 86-104 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fletcher. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 86 as amended, recites GUI hierarchies residing in a common housing. As noted above, Fletcher teaches away from using a single housing for components of the switching center. See for example, Fletcher, Figure 4. Accordingly, claim 86 is allowable. Claims 87-104 depend from claim 86, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 87-104 are also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 86-104 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

On page 7, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 27, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. patent 5,920,822 to Houde et al. (hereafter Houde). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that, with respect to claims 1, 27, and 47, Houde teaches in Figure 4 the mobile switching center coupled to TDMA and CDMA interfaces and an adjunct processor that controls operation of the interfaces. However, Houde discloses the components of the switching center distributed among several different platforms or housings.

Claims 1, 27 and 47 all recite components of mobile switching center in a single or common housing. As noted above, Houde teaches away from this concept. Accordingly, claims 1, 27 and 47 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 27 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the application is condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Amended) A switching center for a communications system that provides communications services to customers having wireless and other communications devices, comprising:

a single platform having a back plane for communication, the single platform, comprising:

a first interface, the second interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a first protocol;

a second interface, the second interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a second protocol; and

a processor system coupled to the first and second interfaces, wherein the processor system controls operation of the first and the second interfaces and generates control messages for sending by the first and the second interfaces.

27. (Amended) A mobile switching center, comprising:

a single housing having back plane communications, comprising:

a central processor that processes incoming signals, wherein the incoming signals are switched in a telecommunications network; and

a wireless interface module that supports two or more wireless protocols.

46. (Amended) An advanced intelligent message handler for use in a mobile telecommunications network having mobile communications devices and one or more base stations, the advanced intelligent message handler, comprising:

a first interface for intersystem messaging, the first interface, comprising:

a first GSM processing thread,

a first TDMA processing thread,

a first CDMA processing thread, and

a first AMPS processing thread;

a second interface for intrasystem messaging, the second interface, comprising:

a second GSM processing thread,

a second TDMA processing thread,

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a second CDMA processing thread, and  
a second AMPS processing thread; [and]

a processor system coupled to the first and the second interfaces, the processor system controlling a flow of message traffic to and from the first and the second interfaces[.]; and  
a single housing containing the first and the second interfaces and the processor system.

47. (Amended) A method for controlling communications in a multi-protocol wireless network, comprising:

receiving first digital communications according to a first protocol at a first interface in a common housing;

sending a first control message according to the first protocol;

receiving second digital communications according to a second protocol at a second interface in the common housing; and

sending a second control message according to the second protocol, wherein a processor in a switching center interprets the first and the second digital communications and generates the first and the second control messages, and wherein the switching center is located in the common housing.

86. (Amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) for use with a scalable, wireless switching center, comprising:

a home location register (HLR) GUI hierarchy;

a visitor location register (VLR) GUI hierarchy;

a database management GUI hierarchy;

a system configuration GUI hierarchy; and

a call record manager GUI hierarchy, wherein GUIs provide access to data that controls operation of the switching center, and wherein the GUI hierarchies reside in a common housing.

105. (New) A switching center for communication system that provides communications services to customers having wireless and other communications devices, comprising:

the first interface, the first interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a first protocol;

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a second interface, the second interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a second protocol, wherein the second interface comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) interface, the ATM interface providing wireless ATM communications and other packet communications; and

a processor system coupled to the first and the second interfaces, wherein the processor system controls operation of the first and the second interfaces and generates control messages for sending by the first and the second interfaces.

106. (New) A mobile switching center, comprising:

a central processor that processes incoming signals wherein the incoming signals are switched in a telecommunications network; and

a wireless interface module that supports two or more wireless protocols, wherein the wireless interface module comprises asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) interface, the ATM interface providing wireless ATM communications and other packet communications.

107. (New) The switching center for a communication system that provides communications services to customers having wireless and other communications devices, comprising:

a first interface, the first interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a first protocol;

a second interface, the second interface receiving and sending digital messaging having a second protocol; and

a processor system coupled to the first and second interfaces, the processor system comprising a single operating system for communications received at the first and the second interfaces, wherein the processor system controls operation of the first and the second interfaces and generates control messages for sending by the first and the second interfaces.